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USSN 09/669,051

Proposed claims for discussion during
Nov. 5, 2002 Interviews (10:00am)**Confidentiality Note**

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PROPOSED CLAIMS FOR DISCUSSION (NOVEMBER 5, 2002 INTERVIEW)

1. A method for treating an obstructed biological conduit, comprising administering to the wall of the biological conduit an agent that can degrade the extracellular matrix of obstructing tissue, wherein administration of the agent results in proteolysis of elastin and/or elastin microfibers in the wall of the biological conduit.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the biological conduit is an artery or vein that is obstructed or susceptible to obstruction.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the agent comprises inserting a delivery apparatus into the wall of the biological conduit.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the method further comprises the step of localizing the delivery apparatus in close proximity to the obstructed segment of the biological conduit to be treated.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the proteolysis of elastin and/or elastin microfibers in the wall of the biological conduit leads to enlargement of the diameter of the treated biological conduit.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the lumen of the biological conduit is pressurized while elastin and/or elastin microfibers in the wall are undergoing proteolysis.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the agent stimulates the release of endogenous enzymes that hydrolyzes elastin and/or elastin microfibers.